

\* Pending call of the roll the following message was received from the Governor:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
AUSTIN, TEXAS, May 9, 1893.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives and Senate:

The appropriations for the support of the State government for the next two years, ending February 28, 1895, made by your honorable bodies in substitute House bill No. 116, just received in the executive office, exceed the estimated revenues for that period by several hundred thousand dollars which, at the present rate of taxation, must lead to a deficiency detrimental to public interests.

To avert this undesirable result I must, in the exercise of the constitutional prerogative vested in the Governor, point out the items to which I object, and approve only those in the bill that may, by the strictest rule of economy, appear to be absolutely necessary for the fairly efficient administration of public affairs.

You have generously allowed the executive office at my request \$1500 each year as "salary for file and corresponding clerk." While the accumulated and fast increasing business of the office make such assistance desirable, it is not proper and absolutely necessary. If exigencies demand, I can and will add one or two more hours of service a day to the other employes of the department and do some extra work myself, to the end that public interests shall not suffer by striking out this item. I can not safely apply this rule all along the line for lack of detailed information, and must therefore let many items for the employment of clerical assistance in the other State departments remain undisturbed. From the act, however, I see that the treasury department has seventeen employes; that the Comptroller's office has forty-six, and that the Land Office has fifty-eight persons employed in it. From my knowledge of the officers in charge of these several departments I feel confident that they will cheerfully refrain from using any more of the large appropriation at their disposal than may be actually necessary in the efficient, economical performance of their respective duties.

Adhering to the strict rule of economy and necessity, I feel quite certain that the following items in the appropriation bill are not absolutely necessary, and object to them as follows:

Under the head of "Adjutant General's Office," the item of \$360 each year for "hire of guard at Camp Mabry when not occupied by troops," for the reason that this expense may be defrayed out of another allowance to that office.

Under the had of "Department of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History," the item of \$300 each year for "additional clerk hire, to be used if necessary," for the reason that the present force of the office seems amply sufficient to do all the work likely to be imposed on it; and the further item under this head of \$20,000 for the year ending February 28, 1895, for "continuing geological survey and lignite investigation" for the reasons that for the year ending February 28, 1894, a like appropriation of \$20,000 is made, and that by the time it is exhausted such work will have progressed far in advance of the demands of the times. The State can not engage in the mining business, but must give way to private enterprise and capital. Up to date, through the efficient corps of the scientific, industrious gentlemen connected with and in control of the geological department, she has pointed the way to mines and minerals of great value on public and private lands, and has laid out work enough to engage industry and capital of immense proportions for many years to come. It is deemed advisable now not to destroy but to preserve in tact the rich mineral specimens gathered and the valuable surveys made by this department until such time in the future after the expiration of the current year as public interests may dictate, that the survey shall be renewed and continued.

Under the head of "Public Printing" the item of \$10,000 for "publishing back volumes of supreme court reports not in stock for the two years;" and the further item of \$5000 for "publishing the General and Special Laws and Decrees of Coahuila and Texas" and other like laws of the State, for the reason that there is no considerable demand or real necessity for such publications.

Under the head of "Public Buildings and Grounds" the item of \$1200 for "building two cisterns;" and the further item under this head of \$2000 for "new water closets for capitol building," for the reason that the building now has several large cisterns, and contains water closets on every floor of sufficient convenience

and number to accommodate ten times the present occupants.

Under the head of "Supreme Court" the item of \$1500 each year "for stenographer's salary," for the reason that while such an employee is a convenience to the court, he is not necessary.

Under the head of "Court of Criminal Appeals" the item of \$1500 each year for "salary of stenographic clerk, who shall also act as clerk for Assistant Attorney-General," and to the further item of \$500 each year to "purchase law books and periodicals for the Assistant Attorney-General," for the reasons that while a stenographic clerk may be a convenience to this court of last resort, he is in no way a necessity; and that the Assistant Attorney-General does not need a stenographer, and has free access to the books and periodicals purchased by the State annually for the court.

Under the head "Court of Civil Appeals, First supreme judicial district" the item of \$1200 each year for "salary of stenographer," for the reason that such clerical assistance is not necessary; and to the further item of \$500 the first and \$300 the second year for "sheriff's attendance" for the reasons that this court is held in Austin, in the same building with the supreme court and court of criminal appeals; that each of these courts has an appropriation for similar services; that such services is merely formal and can, and ought to be performed by the same sheriff of Travis county for the aggregate sum of \$400 per annum allowed for such work to said two courts.

Under the head of "Court of Civil Appeals, Second Supreme Judicial District" the item of \$1200 each year for "salary of stenographer" for the reason that it is not necessary, and for the same reason I object to a similar item of \$600 the first and \$1200 the second year as salaries of stenographers in each of the appropriations for the court of civil appeals at San Antonio and for the court of civil appeals at Dallas.

Under the head of "Quarantine Department" the item of \$5000 each year for the improvement of stations, for the reason that if such improvements are now, or become necessary, the expense thereof can be defrayed out of the general appropriation for that department.

Under the head of "State Lunatic Asylum at Austin" the item of \$40,000 for erecting buildings for general kitchen, associate

dining rooms, amusement hall, and employees' quarters," for the reason that the institution can make out very well for a few years without such costly improvements. The buildings and grounds out there now are spacious, elegant, attractive and require great expense to maintain them. It is trusted that by hard work and good economy of money and space the three large lunatic asylums of the State may be able to reasonably accommodate their unfortunate charges for the next two years without such constant heavy drafts upon the treasury.

Under the head "North Texas Insane Asylum" the items of \$15,000 for "building and furnishing male infirmary," and the further item of \$20,000 for "erecting a building for recreation hall, outside employees, sewing room and chapel," for the reason that such buildings are not demanded for the efficient maintenance and operation of the institution.

Under the head "Southwestern Insane Asylum" the item of \$50,000 to be expended during this year for "erecting of new buildings to be paid out under supervision of a competent architect," for the reason that the building is new, commodious, is not completely filled, and there is an appropriation of \$75,000 to be expended next year for all necessary additions to the institution as its demands by that time may wisely suggest.

Under the head of "Institute for the Blind" the items of \$18,000 for "building new galleries on old buildings and for buildings across the street; addition to boiler house; raising water closet building; enlarging rooms in old building for exercises; improvements on roofs, tower, etc.," and the further item of \$7,500 for building an annex to the Blind Institute for blind persons working home, purchase of grounds, improvements and support of same one year; and the further items of \$3750 and \$5110 respectively for the "purchase of one-half block of ground belonging to Mrs. Hunter, and one-half block of ground and improvements thereon belonging to William Wellmer and John Worbourg," for the reasons that for the convenience, comfort and educational training of the unfortunate inmates of the institution these improvements and property are not at this time indispensable.

Under the head of "Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylum for Colored Youths," the item of \$15,000 for a "new brick building to be erected," for the reason that the institution can

get along very well without this additional expensive building.

Under the head of "Orphan Asylum," the item of \$10,000 for "additional brick building," for the reason that the institution is large, commodious and new, and can make out quite well for some time without this additional expense to the State.

Under the head of "Department of Education," the item of \$6000 each year for "the support of summer normals," for the reason that while these schools for the training and pleasure of teachers are very desirable, they are not necessary. The State pays the teachers very well anyway, and it is quite probable that their professional pride and ambition will prompt them to attend county institutes and summer normals without expense to the public.

Under the head of "Prairie View Normal School," the item of \$2,000 for "dormitory of boys, to be expended within two years," for the reason that the success of the institution does not depend on such an expensive building at this time, especially when this same bill appropriates \$14,000 for other improvements and buildings in and around it for this year.

Under the head of "Agricultural and Mechanical College" the item of \$30,000 for "mess hall, to be expended within two years," for the reason that the buildings of the institution are commodious, and are sufficient for its demands without this additional expense, especially in view of the further appropriation by this Legislature of \$30,000 for other improvements needed in and around the college.

Under the head of "Penitentiaries" \$40,000 out of the item of \$100,000 to defray the expenses and to "purchase material to carry on prison industries," for the reason that these penal institutions are fast becoming self-supporting, and it is for the best public interest to reduce this appropriation that more rigid economy consisted with efficient management, if possible, may prevail.

Under the head of "Miscellaneous Appropriations," the item of \$2000 for "the purchase of 100 copies of a map to be prepared by Langermann & Pressler," for the reason that it is not reasonable that the State would have any general or special use for these 100 maps to cost \$200 each. It would seem that a much less number at that price would serve all public purposes.

These items, to which I feel constrained to enter my objections, aggre-

gate over \$350,000, and are mostly taken from extraordinary appropriations made for the purpose of constructing additions to public, educational and charitable institutions. In doing this, I feel conscious that no material injury will result to either of them. They are now in splendid condition, and are not without ample funds set apart for their efficient maintenance and operation.

While I regret to disappoint a just public pride in the desire to support these institutions up to a standard far above the comforts of the well-to-do citizen, yet I am conscious of the general financial condition of the United States, and of the general complaint throughout the south and west of the scarcity of money, pointing to the propriety, if not necessity of governmental reforms everywhere.

Were these proposed expenditures in all respects necessary or indispensable, I should advocate the increase of taxes to meet them, or face a deficiency without a murmur; but such is not the condition. The institutions and schools are well supplied with everything necessary to their proper management and support. The inmates are comfortably housed, well fed, decently clad, and the government servants in charge of them are paid well for their services. No doubt all the improvements demanded and thrice more could be used. Public buildings, when maintained at public expense, always are.

The State is fast growing—rapidly increasing in population and taxable wealth. Apace with her quick strides on these lines, expenses to support all the departments of government and the educational and charitable institutions must be expected to increase. It is the part of good government to stand up to this, but not above the economical demands of the public. The schools now cost the State more than all her other expenses. This money is expended among the masses. Next to this burden, the expenses of witnesses and officers in the prosecution of criminal cases in the district courts is the heaviest item; and this money also goes out among the people. Following close to these burdens in amount of expense are the charitable institutions. All these charges upon the government within proper bounds are necessary, but they must be held within reasonable limits, or the burden in time will become so heavy as to create unrest among the tax payers, and produce a

reaction against them that may lead to the impairment of their present efficiency. The people cheerfully stand tax burdens when imposed for the support of the government economically administered for the public good. They sensibly and justly complain when any item of extravagance, however small, is laid on them. In this they are right. To-day the tax rate of fifteen cents on the hundred dollars worth of property paid by the people of Texas for the support of their state government is lower than that of most any state in the Union, and it should never be raised unless after applying the pruning knife of economy to all the sources of expense there is an apparent necessity to do so to gratify indispensable public demands. By striking from this bill these several items herein pointed out, I feel confident that no necessary public demand will be disappointed, no material interest damaged, and that the present very low tax rate can be maintained without much, if any, deficiency of the public revenues. This certainly can be done by proper renditions of property to tax assessors, close collections from those who owe the government, and strict economy in all its departments. At least it will be well to make the effort, and I feel reasonably certain of its success.

Most respectfully,

J. S. Hogg,  
Governor of Texas.